REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 5, 2005 and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims

Independent claims 1, 4, 13 and 16 have been amended to better define the present invention. Claims 2, 5, 14 and 17 have been cancelled. Amendments to other claims on file have been editorial in nature.

35 USC § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 13, and 16 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Hunt (US Patent 6,556,956). The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejection based on the amendments made to the claims and the following comments.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites:

A method for analyzing **hydraulic** turbine **singing** noise vibrations comprising the steps of:

receiving at an expert site recorded **singing noise information** relating to **singing noise vibrations recorded at a remote site of a hydraulic turbine operating at less than peak efficiency**; and,

analyzing the recorded **singing noise information** at the expert site and **recommending modifications to hydraulic turbine design to eliminate the singing noise vibrations during operation of the hydraulic turbine operating at less than peak efficiency**.

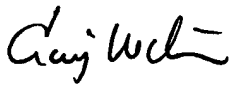
Claims 1 and 13 relate to a method and system for analyzing hydraulic turbine singing noises that are produced by a hydraulic turbine operating at less than peak efficiency. The claims provide for the analysis of this singing noise information at a remote cite where recommendations are made to modify the hydraulic turbine design to eliminate the singing noise vibrations during operation of the hydraulic turbine operating at less than peak efficiency. Independent claims 4 and 16 are directed to a similar method and system which also comprise recording singing noise vibrations of the hydraulic turbine during hydraulic turbine operation at less than peak efficiency at the remote cite to produce the singing noise information. The cited Hunt reference is not concerned with singing noise vibrations of a hydraulic turbine operating at less than peak efficiency and, at an expert cite remote from the hydraulic turbine, making recommendations to modify the turbine design to eliminate the singing noise vibrations. On the other hand, Hunt is directed primarily to gas turbine performance monitoring equipment that collects relevant trend and fault data used for diagnostic trending. This data is used to diagnose and predict maintenance scheduling for the turbine. There is no teaching in Hunt of operating the gas turbine or any other turbine at less than peak performance and analyzing the noise conditions when so operating. There is no teaching in Hunt of utilizing data to make recommendations on turbine design to eliminate singing noise vibrations.

Independent claims 1, 4, 13 and 16 are believed to patentably distinguish over the teachings of Hunt and the Examiner is requested to withdraw his rejection to the claims.

Summary

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1,3, 4, 6 to 13, 15, 16 and 18 to 24 are in condition suitable for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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